Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 2, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 5 is a block diagram of the conventional image data compressing apparatus. An image data compressor 51 performs a first image data compressing operation for compressing image data of a sample area in a still image and a second image data compressing operation of compressing data of the entire area of the still image. A file-size-evaluating unit 52 calculates an evaluation value from a file size of first image data provided through the first image data compressing operation of the image data compressor 51. According to the evaluation value, a compression-rate determining unit 53 determines a compression rate for the second image data compressing operation. A memory unit 54 includes a first memory 54A for temporarily storing the data of the input still image and a second memory 54B for storing second image data file provided through the second image data compressing operation. A recording medium 55, such as a memory card, stores the second image data file provided through the second image data compressing operation.